

Minutes

Talbot County Board of Elections
215 Bay Street
Easton, MD 21601
January 18, 2023

Attendance

Board Members Present

Joseph Secrist, President	(R)
Walter Black	(D)
Richard Bulman	(R)
Wadella Thomas	(R)
Susan MacKinnon	(D)

Staff

Tamara Stafford, Talbot County Election Director

Board Attorney

Lyndsey Ryan

Public

Maryann Judy
Gary Judy
Mark Harrison
Terrence Bernard
Dave Stepp

The monthly meeting of the Talbot County Board of Elections was held January 18, 2023 in Conference Room # One at the Board office indicated above. Mr. Secrist called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM and noted that a quorum was present.

Addition/Changes to the Agenda

Mr. Secrist asked for any additions or changes to the agenda as presented. Mr. Black moved that the agenda be approved as presented. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Secrist asked if the Board had any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meetings of December 14, 2022 and December 28, 2022, copies of which had been forwarded to the Board Members in advance of the meeting. Mr. Black moved to

approve both sets of minutes as mailed. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments

Ms. Maryann Judy addressed the Board regarding responses she received to the questions in her letter to the Board, specifically those questions that were not addressed. Ms. Stafford advised Ms. Judy that she has referred those questions to the State Board of Elections. Ms. Stafford advised that she will further respond to Ms. Judy after she hears from the State Board. Ms. Judy expressed her opinion regarding possible proposals that she expects to come before the legislature this year. Ms. Judy also inquired about the chain of custody for ballots, specifically those handled by the Post Office. Ms. Stafford referred her to the Post Master at the Easton Post Office.

Election Director's Report

Ms. Stafford provided the Board with a written report on staff activities since the last monthly Board Meeting. A copy of her report is attached to these minutes.

Board Attorney's Report

Ms. Ryan reported that she expects there will be a number of bills introduced at this session of the legislature that will affect the Board of Elections. She will keep the Board informed regarding proposed legislation.

Old Business

- A. Facility for Election Office - Ms. Stafford reported that she has an appointment to introduce herself to County Manager Clay Stamp and will use that opportunity to discuss the need for a decision on relocating the Election Board operations from the County Business Center and the need to co-locate our operations. She will emphasize the need to complete the relocations this calendar year. Otherwise, moving the Board's operations after that will seriously interfere with the upcoming Presidential Election.

Mr. Secrist noted that the next County Council agenda has the Election Board scheduled to introduce Ms. Stafford to the Council Members. Board Members will be in attendance to provide the Council with further input regarding the need and urgency for action on relocating the Election Board operations to a single location and completion of the move prior to the end of this calendar year.

- B. Budget FY 2023 - Ms. Stafford provided reports on expenditures recorded through December. There were no questions from Board Members.
- C. Review of Invoices - Ms. Stafford provided copies of invoices received since the last Board Meeting. There were no questions from Board Members.

- D. County Bulletins - Copies of County Bulletins for January 2, 2023 were previously provided to Board Members. There were no questions from Board Members.
- E. FY 2024 Budget – Ms. Stafford is awaiting budget numbers from the State Board of Elections, and the State Board is waiting budget information from the new Governor. Ms. Stafford will complete her recommendation for next year’s budget upon receipt of the State information. She hopes to have her recommendation to the Board at its February meeting. No due date has been announced by the county, but the County Council hearing on its budget is tentatively set for May 2, 2023.
- F. Tilghman Fire House Repair – Ms. Stafford is still awaiting information from the Tilghman Fire Department regarding the cost of the repairs.

New Business

- A. Letter to County Council – The letter to the County Council regarding our space requirements was sent by Ms. Ryan on January 9, 2023. Ms. Stafford and Members of the Board intend to summarize the letter at the Council’s meeting on January 24 and be available to respond to question from Council Members.

Confirmation of next meeting

Mr. Secrist noted that the next regular monthly meeting will be Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 9:30 AM.

Closed Session

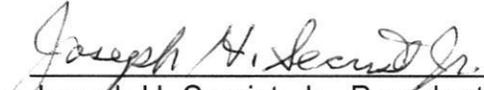
Mr. Bulman moved that the Board go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters that affect one or more specific individuals as permitted under General Provisions Art. 3-305(b) (1). Mr. Black seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. Whereupon the Board went into closed session at 10:09 AM. Present at this session were Board Members Mr. Secrist, Mr. Black, Ms. Thomas, Ms. MacKinnon and Mr. Bulman. Also present were Board Attorney Lyndsey Ryan and Election Director Tamara Stafford. Members of the public departed the meeting at this point. Ms. Stafford departed the meeting during the Closed Session.

At 11:08 AM. the Board returned to open session. President Secrist reported that the Board completed the end cycle evaluation for the Election Director.

Adjournment

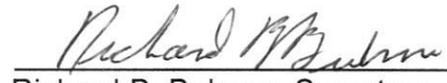
Mr. Black moved adjournment of the meeting. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM.

Attested,



Joseph H. Secrist, Jr., President

Respectfully submitted,



Richard B. Bulman, Secretary